

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 MC-02 L-03

H-03 IGA-02 AID-20 EB-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DODE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, HA

SUBJECT: SWIFTSHIPS

REF: PORT AU PRINCE 1329, PAR. 3.

1. AMBASSADOR CHALMERS CALLED AT THE DEPARTMENT AUGUST 8 TO DISCUSS SEVERAL TOPICS AMONG WHICH WAS THE PROBLEM OF THE SWIFTSHIPS INC. CLAIM AGAINST AEROTRADE. HE PROVIDED DEPTOFF WITH COPY OF LETTER HE HAD ADDRESSED ON AUGUST 7 TO SWIFTSHIPS ATTORNEY ALFRED LIPPMAN. TEXT OF THAT LETTER IS AS FOLLOWS:

~,,

"I ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF YOUR LETTER DATED JULY 31, 1973, CONCERNING THE SALE OF SIX (6) PATROL BOATS CONSTRUCTED BY SWIFTSHIPS INC. FOR AEROTRADE INC. OF MIAMI.

"LET ME STATE THE FOLLOWING:

1) AEROTRADE IN GENERAL AND MR. BYERS IN PARTICULAR ARE NOT ANYMORE AGENTS OF THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT IN THE U.S.A. AND ANYWHERE.

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2) THERE WAS A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT AND AEROTRADE FOR THE BUY OF SIX (6) PATROL BOATS AND ANOTHER BETWEEN AEROTRADE AND SWIFTSHIPS. THEREFORE HAD CONTRACTED NO OBLIGATION TO SWIFTSHIPS.

"3) NEVERTHELESS AND IN ORDER TO BE HELPFUL TO SWIFTSHIPS, THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT ASKS YOU TO HAVE IN MIND THAT IT DOES NOT INTEND TO TAKE THE THREE REMAINING BOATS. IF YOU DISPOSE OF THEM IT WILL FILE NO SUIT AGAINST SWIFTSHIPS INC."

2. CHALMERS SAID THAT THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT HAD THREE SEPARATE CONTRACTS WITH AEROTRADE: (1) SWIFTSHIPS PURCHASE; (2) HELICOPTER ACQUISITION; (3) JORDANIAN ARMS. ACCORDING TO CHALMERS, GOH HAD PAID BYERS IN FULL FOR THE 6 PATROL BOATS. HOWEVER, ON HIS AUTHORITY BYERS HAD USED PART OF THE MONEY TO PAY OFF THE OTHER TWO CONTRACTS. NEVERTHELESS, GOH WAS NOT MAKING AN ISSUE OF THE MATTER. AS FAR AS SWIFTSHIPS IS CONCERNED AND AS STATED IN CHALMERS' LETTER THEY HAVE AUTHORIZED SWIFTSHIPS TO SELL REMAINING 3 BOATS TO ANOTHER PURCHASER.

ROGERS

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